



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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July 18, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Site Inspection, Gypsum Resource Development Company, White Cap #8, S/015/047, Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection: June 10, 2002
Time of Inspection: 12:20 to 12:35 p.m.
Conditions: Clear, 80's
Participants: Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

There was no specific purpose for the inspection. I was in the area, had a little time, and decided to visit the site. I simply drove around the mine to get a general idea of the layout and the facilities.

Getting to the site:

Going south on SR 10 from Huntington, go about two miles past the intersection with SR 29, the turnoff to Orangeville. Turn left on the road that leads into the San Rafael Swell, and follow this road for about 12-13 miles to the intersection at the Buckhorn Well. Turn right onto the road leading toward The Wedge Overlook. Take this road for about two miles to just beyond where it curves to the east and just before it curves sharply to the south. The mine is on the south side of the road and is easy to see.

Observations:

The site is not active, and it does not appear there has been any activity in some time. It looks like there are a couple of topsoil piles with several years of growth on them. There was a grizzly near the road, and there were several cows on the mine site. I saw, as I was leaving, that there was a watering trough just to the east of the mine. There are a few small drainages that come into the site from the southwest, and there were no culverts under the road.

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Conclusions and Recommendations from the Inspection:

The mine may be over five acres, and an inspector ought to use a GPS unit to determine the size the next time the mine is inspected.

It didn't look like the lack of culverts was causing a problem, but it might be necessary to install culverts if the mine again becomes active.

I saw no problems that need to be corrected.

Outstanding Permitting Issues:

Based on available annual reports, it appears the mine was last active in 1995. The operator has never paid the permit fees, but in November 2001, Clark Powell paid the fee as part of his effort to have the permit transferred to him. Although he signed the permit transfer form, the form was never signed by the permittee.

The Division has on file a March 27, 1997, letter from the operator, Gypsum Resource Development (GRD), to the Bureau of Land Management which says:

Please be advised that GRD has terminated its lease on the gypsum mineral claims held by Clark Powell and colleges [sic]. We have an understanding with Mr. Powell that the current reclamation bond with Emery County will be assigned to him and that Mr. Powell will in turn become the operator of the mine.

As you know, the BLM accepted the terms of the Emery County bond in satisfaction of all reclamation bonding requirements. We expect that such remains the case with this change of operators.

Although I have spoken with the operator's representative, Curtis Larkin, I am unsure why the transfer has never been completed, especially since it appears GRD no longer has right of entry.

It has been long enough since the mine was active that the Division can now require reclamation, and since the operator does not have right of entry and since he has never paid the permit fees, this is an option the Division should consider.

cc: Dean Nyffeler, BLM Price Office
Curtis Larkin, GRD
Clark Powell

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